

REMARKS

Amendments to the claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. With this response, claims 1-3 have been amended and new claim 16 has been introduced. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Figures

The Applicants have also amended Figures 3 and 4 to add reference numeral 100, as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets of the drawings.

35 USC § 103 rejections

1. In the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2 and 5-13 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. App. 2003/0086255 to Moon. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 as amended recites "a support disposed on a non-edge part of the reflecting plate . . . preventing bending of the diffuser and illumination tube." Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in Figure 4 and related portions of the specification. In sharp contrast, Figure 6 of Moon shows supports 541a, 541b disposed on the edge of a reflecting plate 591a. Further, the Examiner should also show to the Applicant how does Moon "prevent bending of the diffuser and the illumination tube." From Figure 6 of Moon it can be seen that, when the diffuser is large, the supports 541a, 541b do not prevent the diffuser and illumination tube from being bent.

Therefore, the Examiner is not in a condition to make a prima facie rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC § 103(a) based on Moon because Moon does not show, teach or suggest the above features of claim 1. It follows that claim 1 is patentable over Moon, together with claims 2 and 5-13, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

2. In the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 3 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. RE36,961 to Nagano. The

Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that claim 3, which depends on claim 1, is patentable over Moon and Nagano at least by virtue of the same arguments used with reference to claim 1 above.

3. In the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 4 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,138,528 to Altman. The Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that claim 4, which depends on claim 1, is patentable over Moon and Altman at least by virtue of the same arguments used with reference to claim 1 above.

4. In the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,561,663 to Adachi. The Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that claims 14 and 15, which depend on claim 1, is patentable over Moon and Adachi at least by virtue of the same arguments used with reference to claim 1 above.

New claims

New claim 16 has been added. The Applicants submit that claim 16 is patentable over the cited art at least because claim 16 recites "a first gap . . . between the support and the diffuser to protect the diffuser from deformation due to thermal expansion of the support."

* * *

The Applicants submit that all claims of the application as amended herein are in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including

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a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on

July 29, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Susan Papp
(Name of Person Depositing)

Susan Papp
Signature
07/29/05
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: - Replacement sheets 1/2 and 2/2
- postcard

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 3 and 4, where a reference numeral 100 has been added to Figures 3 and 4.

Replacement sheet 1/2 which includes Figures 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Figures 2 and 3. Replacement sheet 2/2, which includes Figure 4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 4.